

Serial No. 09/675,943  
Filed: September 29, 2000

application in condition for allowance or better form for appeal, entry of this amendment is earnestly solicited.

It was stated in the Office Action that the title is not descriptive. Applicants have hereinabove provided a new title that is maintained to better describe the claimed invention.

Claims 7, 23 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Specifically, the phrase “, and salts, esters, optically active forms and racemates which can be metabolized *in vivo* to yield the corresponding compound of formula (I)” was found render the claims indefinite. While applicants maintain that the quoted language is fully supported within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 112, to expedite prosecution, this language has been removed from the claims.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is earnestly solicited.

Since the Patent Office has acknowledged that the claimed invention is free of the prior art and all statutorily based rejections have been overcome above, issuance of a Notice of Allowance is solicited.

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If a telephone conference would be of assistance in furthering prosecution of the subject application, applicants request that the undersigned attorney be contacted at the number below.

No fee, except the fee for the presentation of additional claims, is required in connection with the filing of this Amendment. If any fees are deemed necessary, authorization is given to charge the amount of any such fee to Deposit Account No. 08-2525.

Respectfully submitted,



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**VERSION SHOWING CHANGES MADE TO THE TEXT**

**In the title:**

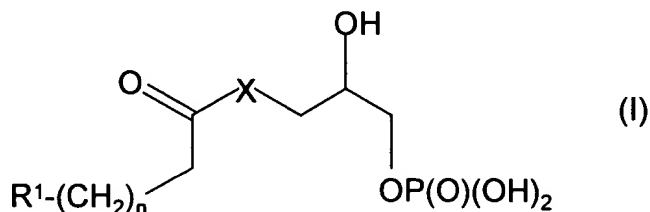
~~OSTEOBLAST SPECIFIC MITOGENS AND DRUGS CONTAINING SUCH~~  
~~COMPOUNDS~~ LYSOPHOSPHATIDLYIC ACID DERIVATIVES

**In the claims:**

Claims 21-24 were canceled.

Claim 7 was amended as follows:

-- 7. (Amended) A lysophosphatidylic acid derivative selected from the group consisting of compounds of the formula: (I)



wherein

R<sup>1</sup> = alkenyl or alkynyl having from 6 to 24 carbon atoms;

n = 0 – 12;

X = oxygen or NH;

the compounds (all-cis-5,8,11, 14)-eicosatetraenoic acid 2-hydroxy-3-phosphonooxypropyl ester; cis-9, cis-12-octadecadienoic acid 2-hydroxy-3-

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phosphonooxypropyl ester; (all-cis-9,12,15)-octadecatrienoic acid 2-hydroxy-3-phosphonooxypropyl ester; cis-9-octadecenoic acid 2-hydroxy-3-phosphonooxypropyl ester; and erucic acid 2-hydroxy-3-phosphonooxypropylester being excluded, and the physiologically tolerable salts, esters, optically active forms, and racemates of said compounds, ~~and salts, esters, optically active forms and racemates which can be metabolized in vivo to yield the corresponding compound of formula (I).~~ --

New claims 25-122 were added as recited above.